

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SS-15 ERDA-05 L-03

SP-02 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

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APPROVED BY OES/NET:HDBENGELSDORF

ACDA - MR. WILLIAMSON

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L/OES - MR. SIEGEL

S/P - MR. KALICKI

PM/NPO - MR. OPLINGER

NEA/PAB - MR. ARCHARD

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN-

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P R 061828Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH NUCLEAR PROGRAM: PURCHASE OF GENERAL
ATOMIC RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: (A) DACCA 5732 (B) STATE 266974

1. ROBERT CHESWORTH, MARKETING MANAGER, TRIGA REACTOR
DIVISION, GENERAL ATOMIC, INC. HAS INFORMED US THAT HE
RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING CABLE FROM DR. ANWAR HOSSAIN,
ACTING DIRECTOR, BANGLADESH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IN
RESPONSE TO HIS TELEGRAM CONCERNING BDG'S DELAY IN
MAKING DOWN PAYMENT ON TRIGA REACTOR WHICH IT HAS CON-
TRACTED FOR: QUOTE. REF YOUR CABLE TO PROFESSOR ALI OF
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NOVEMBER 5, REQUEST GENERAL ATOMIC KEEP AGREEMENT OPEN

UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER, 1976. ALSO REQUEST U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TO SEND DEFINITE PROPOSAL ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT SINCE RESPONSE FROM USA VERY MUCH NEEDED. END QUOTE.

2. ALTHOUGH USG POSITION VIS-A-VIS NPT ADHERENCE AND PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN USG AND BDG HAS BEEN CLEARLY OUTLINED TO SEVERAL BDG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DRS. ALI AND HASSAIN, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO

SPELL IT OUT IN WRITING. IF EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTIONS, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU INCORPORATE INTO AIDE MEMOIRE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WHICH SHOULD BE LEFT WITH MFA WITH COPY TO DR. ALI.

BEGIN TEXT. IN SEVERAL RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE BANGLADESH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, USG REPRESENTATIVES HAVE EXPLAINED U.S. POLICY WITH RESPECT TO COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND EXPLAINED IN THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE U.S. FAVORS COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS OF THIS NATURE, INCLUDING SUCH AS THAT ENVISIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH. AS WAS ALSO EXPLAINED AND AS WAS STRESSED IN THE OCTOBER 28 NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD, AN IMPORTANT CRITERION FOR CONSIDERING NEW COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IS WHETHER THE COOPERATING PARTY ADHERES TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. WE ARE PLEASED TO CONFIRM THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE RECENT CONVERSATIONS AND TO ASSURE YOU OF THE POSITIVE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN DEVELOPING A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR COOPERATION IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN THE NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT FORD. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO LEARN OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE AND OF THE PLANS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO ADHERENCE TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. END TEXT.

3. FYI. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT BDG IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT PURCHASING GA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACTOR WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AGREEMENT AND NPT ACCESSION. IN DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH DRS. ALI AND HOSSAIN, GOING BACK TO JULY, AND THROUGH EMBASSY DEMARCHES TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THERE, USG POSITION THAT BANGLADESH WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BECOME PARTY TO NPT BEFORE AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION COULD BE CONCLUDED WAS CLEARLY EXPLAINED, AND THERE SEEMED TO BE NO DOUBT THAT THIS CONDITION WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. BDG NOW SEEMS TO BE

DRAWING BACK ON THIS SCORE, AND KABIR OF BDG EMBASSY RECENTLY TOLD DESK OFFICER THAT NPT ACCESSION WAS NEW CONDITION ON OUR PART. WE HAVE RECENTLY HEARD A RUMOR THAT INDIA IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE A RESEARCH REACTOR TO BDG. IF THIS IS TRUE, IT COULD PERHAPS ACCOUNT FOR BDG RELUCTANCE TO MAKE SCHEDULED DOWN PAYMENT ON GENERAL ATOMIC REACTOR. HENCE, ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN ABOUT POSSIBLE INDIAN-BDG ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4. FYI. WE REMAIN FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH BDG ON BASIS OUTLINED ABOVE AND ARE PREPARED TO SEEK AUTHORITY TO DO SO WHEN BDG MAKES POSITIVE MOVE IN DIRECTION OF BECOMING NPT PARTY. HOWEVER, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WOULD SUBMIT AN AGREEMENT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS APPROVAL AND REFERRAL TO CONGRESS UNLESS AND UNTIL BDG BECOMES NPT PARTY.
END FYI. KISSINGER

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